

**FILED****DECEMBER 9, 2009**KAREN S. MITCHELL  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
AMARILLO DIVISION

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TIMOTHY W. HOOKER, PRO SE,	§	
also known as	§	
TIMOTHY HOOKER,	§	
TDCJ-CID #1041170,	§	
Previous TDCJ-CID #542162,	§	
FBI #29855-077,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	2:08-CV-0136
	§	
L. CURTIS, CO III,	§	
E. C. WILLIAMS, Warden, and	§	
V. L. BRISHER, Asst. Administrator,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Plaintiff TIMOTHY W. HOOKER, acting *pro se* and while a prisoner incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, has filed suit pursuant to Title 42, United States Code, section 1983 complaining against the above-referenced defendants and has been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

Plaintiff claims defendant CURTIS took his property for transport to another unit, giving plaintiff a copy of the inventory sheet, but that the property was waiting at the “chain bus” when plaintiff was transported to his new unit. Plaintiff claims his grievances about the matter have been denied and that no one has taken the time to look at his property inventory sheet, substantiating his claims.

Plaintiff states he is suing defendant CURTIS because she is “the ultimate cause of the loss of [his] property. He sues defendant WILLIAMS for failure to investigate his claims of lost

property. Lastly, plaintiff sues defendant BRISHER for not adequately investigating and satisfactorily resolving his property complaint.

Plaintiff requests compensation for his property loss and that costs be taxed against the defendants.

### **JUDICIAL REVIEW**

When a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or from an officer or employee of a governmental entity, the Court must evaluate the complaint and dismiss it without service of process, *Ali v. Higgs*, 892 F.2d 438, 440 (5th Cir. 1990), if it is frivolous<sup>1</sup>, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. 1915A; 28 U.S.C. 1915(e)(2). The same standards will support dismissal of a suit brought under any federal law by a prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility, where such suit concerns prison conditions. 42 U.S.C. 1997e(c)(1). A *Spears* hearing need not be conducted for every *pro se* complaint. *Wilson v. Barrientos*, 926 F.2d 480, 483 n.4 (5th Cir. 1991)<sup>2</sup>.

The Magistrate Judge has reviewed plaintiff's pleadings and has viewed the facts alleged by plaintiff to determine if his claims present grounds for dismissal or should proceed to answer by defendants.

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<sup>1</sup>A claim is frivolous if it lacks an arguable basis in law or in fact, *Booker v. Koonce*, 2 F.3d 114, 115 (5th Cir. 1993); *see, Denton v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 112 S.Ct. 1728, 1733, 118 L.Ed.2d 340 (1992).

<sup>2</sup>*Cf. Green v. McKaskle*, 788 F.2d 1116, 1120 (5th Cir. 1986) ("Of course, our discussion of *Spears* should not be interpreted to mean that all or even most prisoner claims require or deserve a *Spears* hearing. A district court should be able to dismiss as frivolous a significant number of prisoner suits on the complaint alone or the complaint together with the *Watson* questionnaire.").

### THE LAW AND ANALYSIS

There is no fact indicating the destruction or loss of plaintiff's property was anything other than a random, unauthorized act or the result of negligence. At best, plaintiff's allegations support a claim of negligence, but do not indicate who was actually negligent.

As to a random, unauthorized deprivation, Texas provides an adequate post-deprivation remedy by way of a civil action in tort for conversion. *Murphy v. Collins*, 26 F.3d 541, 543-44 (holding that, in Texas, the tort of conversion is an adequate post-deprivation remedy); *Thompson v. Steele*, 709 F.2d 381, 383 (5th Cir.1983) (holding that a state action for damages is an adequate remedy), *cert. denied*, 464 U.S. 897, 104 S.Ct. 248, 78 L.Ed.2d 236 (1983). As to negligence, such an allegation does not state a cause of action under § 1983. *Daniels v. Williams*, 474 U.S. 327, 328 (1986); *Davidson v. Cannon*, 474 U.S. 344, 347, 106 S.Ct. 668, 88 L.Ed.2d 677 (1986). Where negligence is involved in causing a deprivation of property, no procedure for compensation is constitutionally required. *Id.* Thus, plaintiff's allegations against defendant CURTIS fail to state a claim of constitutional dimension. Plaintiff's claim lacks an arguable basis in law, and are frivolous.

To the extent plaintiff is suing defendants WILLIAMS and BRISHER for a failure to properly investigate and satisfactorily resolve his grievance(s) or other complaints, *Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 115 S.Ct. 2293, 132 L.Ed.2d 418 (1995), leaves plaintiff without a federally-protected right to have his grievances investigated and resolved. Any right of that nature is grounded in state law or regulation and the mere failure of an official to follow state law or regulation, without more, does not violate constitutional minima. *See, e.g., Murray v. Mississippi Dept. of Corrections*, 911 F.2d 1167, 1168 (5th Cir. 1990); *Ramirez v. Ahn*, 843 F.2d

864, 867 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 489 U.S. 1085, 109 S.Ct. 1545, 103 L.Ed.2d 849 (1989); *Baker v. McCollan*, 433 U.S. 137, 146-47, 99 S.Ct. 2689, 2695-2696, 61 L.Ed.2d 433 (1979).

Plaintiff's claims in this respect lack an arguable basis in law and are frivolous. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 109 S.Ct. 1827, 104 L.Ed.2d 338 (1989).

### CONCLUSION

Pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, sections 1915A and 1915(e)(2), as well as Title 42, United States Code, section 1997e(c)(1), it is the RECOMMENDATION of the Magistrate Judge to the United States District Judge that the Civil Rights Claims filed by TIMOTHY W. HOOKER pursuant to Title 42, United States Code, section 1983 be DISMISSED AS FRIVOLOUS.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE

The United States District Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Report and Recommendation to each party by the most efficient means available.

IT IS SO RECOMMENDED.

ENTERED this 9th day of December 2009.

  
CLINTON E. AVERITTE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

### **\* NOTICE OF RIGHT TO OBJECT \***

Any party may object to these proposed findings, conclusions and recommendation. In the event parties wish to object, they are hereby NOTIFIED that the deadline for filing objections is fourteen (14) days from the date of filing as indicated by the "entered" date directly above the signature line. Service is complete upon mailing, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(C), or transmission by electronic means, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(E). **Any objections must be filed on**

**or before the fourteenth (14th) day after this recommendation is filed** as indicated by the “entered” date. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(d).

Any such objections shall be made in a written pleading entitled “Objections to the Report and Recommendation.” Objecting parties shall file the written objections with the United States District Clerk and serve a copy of such objections on all other parties. A party’s failure to timely file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation contained in this report shall bar an aggrieved party, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the unobjected-to proposed factual findings, legal conclusions, and recommendation set forth by the Magistrate Judge in this report and accepted by the district court. *See Douglass v. United Services Auto. Ass’n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5th Cir. 1996); *Rodriguez v. Bowen*, 857 F.2d 275, 276-77 (5th Cir. 1988).